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Johnson Sends Mann to Canal, Phones Chiari

Presidents Agree Violence in Zone Must Be Stopped

By GARNETT D. HORNER

Star Staff Writer

President Johnson today sent Assistant Secretary of State Thomas C. Mann, his top Latin American trouble shooter, to Panama and appealed to Americans in the Canal Zone to help restore peace.

The President also talked by telephone for 15 minutes with Panamanian President Roberto Chiari.

White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger reported that the two Presidents "agreed that there had to be a stop to the violence" in the Canal Zone.

Mr. Johnson also gave "most earnest instructions" to Gen. Andrew O'Meara, directing United States military operations in the Canal Zone, "to do all that is within his power to restore and to maintain peace and safety in the Canal Zone."

After Meeting

These actions were announced after a 90-minute meeting at the White House between the President and his senior diplomatic and military advisers.

A White House statement said "the United States Government greatly regrets the tragic loss of life of Panamanians and Americans."

Mr. Mann and a group of other American officials took off by jet plane from Andrews Air Force Base this afternoon. They were scheduled to arrive in Panama about 7 o'clock tonight.

Mr. Mann, only recently named as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American affairs and a special assistant to the President, is expected to confer with President Chiari.

To Ascertain Facts

He also has instructions from advisers. Mr. Johnson, officials said, to make a maximum effort to ascertain the facts about all the activities in Panama and Zone.

the Canal Zone that led to the clashes between Panamanians and United States Army forces. loss of life of Panamanians and American officials on the

spot in the Canal Zone had similar instructions from the President. White House sources said the activities in Panama and the Canal Zone remain all that is within his power to unclear despite a flow of information from press reports.

Those flying with Mr. Mann to Panama on President Johnson's orders included Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance, in the restoration of peace and his capacity as the leading similar appeal to the residents of the Canal Zone.

Government responsible for operation of the Canal Zone; Edwin Martin, Mr. Mann's predecessor as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American affairs who has been designated Ambassador to Argentina, and Ralph Dungan, special assistant to the President who has specialized in Latin American affairs.

Besides the officials flying to Panama, those who met with the President at the White House this morning on the Panama crisis included Secretary of State Rusk, Secretary of Defense McNamara, Undersecretary of State George Ball, Undersecretary of the Army Stephen Ailes, McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President for national security, and John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, Senator Morse, Democrat of Oregon, called a meeting of the Senate Subcommittee on American Republics to receive a briefing from the State Department on the situation. Senator Arthur Maura, who sat in the extension telephone. Mr. Salinger said President Johnson informed President Chiari that he was sending Mr. Mann to the Canal Zone. The President was kept informed of the developments in Panama last night was talking by telephone with Mr. Mann until he went to bed after midnight.

He was up again about 6:50 a.m. and from then on until the conference with his advisers again at 9:30 a.m. received frequent telephone reports from Mr. Mann and Mr. Bundy. During the night, the President sent Mr. Dungan to the Pentagon, where he operated in the Pentagon war room as in liaison with the White House. Mr. Mann worked during the night in the State Department, and Senator Ellender, Democratic operations room.

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Text of Statement

After that meeting, Mr. Salinger read to newsmen the following statement:

"The President has this morning reviewed the situation in Panama with his senior advisers.

"He has ordered the assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Mann, to proceed at once to the Canal Zone.

"The United States Government greatly regrets the tragic loss of life of Panamanians and American officials on the

"The President has given the most earnest instructions to Gen. O'Meara (commander of the southern command) to do all that is within his power to restore and to maintain peace and safety in the Canal Zone.

"The President has noted President Chiari's appeal to the citizens of Panama to join in the restoration of peace and the President is making a similar appeal to the residents of the Canal Zone.

"The path to a settlement can only be through peace and understanding and not through violence."

Committee Meets

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Blame U. S. Students

However, Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Mann, worked during the night in the State Department, and Senator Ellender, Democratic operations room.

erat of Louisiana, were inclined to place the major share of blame on American students, for violating an agreement under which the Panamanian flag was to fly wherever the United States flag was flown in the Canal Zone.

Both expressed hope an amicable settlement could be reached.

"There's plenty of room in Panama for both the American flag and the Panamanian flag," Senator Humphrey told a reporter. "I only hope we can come to an understanding at once."

15-Minute Talk

Mr. Johnson talked with President Chiari from about 11:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Mr. Johnson spoke in English. The Panamanian President spoke in Spanish. Their remarks were interpreted by Army Lt. Col. Arthur Moura, who sat in the extension telephone.

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